

[P.148]

MEMOIRS, AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, NO. 73

[WATSON] PLATE IV

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FIG. 16. Mother and son just before noon meal. Note metal cooking tripod and iron pots, trade goods. Boy has toy bow and arrows.

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FIG. 17. Nursing child and siblings. (Older boy's face is only dirty.)

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FIG. 19. Small boy getting drink from cup, water from gourd in left hand. Corner of house with bamboo "boards" is at right rear.

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FIG. 20. Young recent initiate wearing *tembeid* ("lip stone") of hardened resin. He was one of about five boys to be initiated just prior to our arrival at Taquapiri in 1943.

FIG. 18. Group of small-fry at play. The little girls all are clothed.

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/309 cont. /

174 If they were under the authority of a powerful chief, the expedition
 167 gained in cohesion and numbers. In no case must one see in
 721 these migrations a national movement carried out according to
 619 a pre-established plan and involving the whole group of Guarani
 tribes simultaneously. These Indians, like all in tropical
 America, have never had a very clear consciousness of their
 unity, and, even in the face of a common danger, the idea
 never occurred to them that similarity of language and culture
 might create a bond of solidarity among them. All the more
 reason why this individualism of the group or tribe was to
 manifest itself with particular acuity when a simple pillaging
 expedition was afoot.

174 The columns of Guarani warriors who penetrated into
 721 the Chaco bush doubtless included only a few women. The
 167 men advanced, walking in single file, bows and arrows in hand,
 22 while several girls followed behind with baskets full of pro-
 262 visions on their backs. If these ran out, the men hunted along
 411 the way or fished in the rivers, such as the Pilcomayo if they
 482 were following its course. When game or fish were lacking,
 they gathered fruit; palm cabbage, algarroba pods, and
 chañar fruit were there, which provided a substantial diet,
 but it was still necessary to choose the season when they were
 825 ripe, in order to travel. They watched the flight of bees
 in order to find honey, and they did not scorn certain insects or
 167 their larvae. The problem of water was the only serious one;
 721 it was solved by collecting what the caraguatá leaves held at
 174 the base; they sucked the root of certain tubers (the /310/
 271 sipóy (1) of the northern Chaco) and quenched their thirst at
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[137]

1. This is a Bignoniaceae or Begoniaceae (?).
 This plant has the appearance of a liana whose
 bulb is full of fresh water. (Diccionario
Chiriguano-Español y Español-Chiriguano,
 p. 192).

the small ponds encountered on the way.

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[262] Elsewhere (Hernández, p. 241): "The Spanish, taking with them as guides some Indians and several individuals who said they knew the way, walked for thirty days across deserts where they suffered very much from hunger and thirst, to such a degree that some Indians died ... they returned eating wild
● [271] thistles all the way. For something to drink they extracted the juice from these thistles and other weeds."

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[721] "Aracare ... ordered them (the Guaraní who were accompanying a Spanish expedition into the Chaco) to set fire to the prairies they were crossing, which was the equivalent of warning the enemy Indians whose territory they were going through to come and bar their way and kill them. They did that against the custom and discipline observed by those who make expeditions in this country and against the practice of the Indians themselves." (Hernández, p. 228.)

A Guaraní from Puerto de los Reyes, who had taken part in an expedition to look for metal, reported to Irala "that he had heard it said that they took five moons before reaching the place where the metal was, and he added that the ones from Itatin who lived more than a hundred leagues lower asserted that they took no more than three months and claimed that they made this trip in five months since they had to pass so close to the spot where their homes were. He said that what he was claiming was the truth, but that the duration of this trip was due to the fact that they often stayed to eat in regions which appeared fertile and that during the time he was with them they stayed in one place three months and that this was why it took them so long." (Relación de Domingo Martínez de Irala, p. 350.)

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167 - Against the frequency of these warlike expeditions of the Guaraní, there /312/ will be raised the objection of the insurmountable obstacles the Chaco presents, the unprecedented difficulties the Europeans had in trying to cross it, the bloody sacrifices all the expeditions risking it must have made. I shall reply by reporting the account of a contemporary migration made to me by my old friend and host, "Captain" Taruirí of Caipipendí. Some years ago, old Taruirí, having learned